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Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

Letter dated 3 December 2008 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

The 2008 session of the Economic and Social Council was truly an historic occasion; it implemented the vision of the 2005 World Summit in its entirety and firmly established the Council not only as a central mechanism for the follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits but also as the principal forum on international development cooperation.

It was remarkable to see the holding of the very first Development Cooperation Forum. The Forum, indeed, constitutes one of the central pillars of the new, revitalized Economic and Social Council. I believe that we made significant strides in positioning the Council as the principal forum for global dialogue and policy review on the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation. The representative global character of the Forum provides it with a clear comparative advantage in reviewing progress in scaling up mutual accountability and aid effectiveness.

The exchange of information and lessons learned at the national voluntary presentations during the annual ministerial review were, once again, encouraging and significant. In particular, the participation by developed countries in 2008 demonstrated the versatility of these presentations, which was lauded by all. It is a step forward in promoting accountability in the fulfilment of international commitments in development cooperation.

Developing countries shared their unique experiences in development and agreed on one common theme — that the eradication of poverty can only be achieved by pursuing development that is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable. Volunteering developed countries, for their part, acknowledged the gaps in their development cooperation strategies while highlighting successes with their

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development partners. It is heartening to note that the momentum has continued and that we already have 11 countries volunteering for 2009.

The Economic and Social Council was able to contribute to the ongoing efforts to realize the goal of sustainable development by bringing different stakeholders together, by addressing emerging challenges, such as climate change, rising food and oil prices and the loss of biodiversity and, most importantly, by adopting the ministerial declaration. The Council's role in peacebuilding and post-conflict development has been recognized, and it is building its relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission by engaging in an informal discussion on how its work can enrich that of the Commission.

With regard to the other outcomes of the Council's substantive session of July 2008, I would like to highlight some of the important proposals made by the Council, which are of relevance to the functional commissions. A list of the resolutions adopted by the Council specifically calling for action by the functional commissions is attached for your reference (see annex).

Among the resolutions listed I wish to draw your attention, in particular, to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/29 on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcome of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. In that resolution, the Council, inter alia, recognized the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies so as to allow the Council to carry out its crucial role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination more effectively, encouraged the functional commissions to continue to explore ways to engage agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system more systematically in their work within their respective mandates and requested the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council, in accordance with their mandates, as appropriate, to contribute to the annual ministerial review and to the Development Cooperation Forum, in the context of their respective annual workplans, taking into account their specificities.

I would greatly appreciate it if the issues raised above could be brought to the attention of your functional commission for consideration and action, and wish to thank you for your continued assistance and collaboration in this regard.

(*Signed*) Léo **Mérorès**

Annex

Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2008 requesting follow-up

A. Resolutions requesting follow-up by all functional commissions

Resolution number	*Title*
2008/18	Promoting full employment and decent work for all
2008/20	Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with, persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights
2008/21	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2008/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

B. Resolutions requesting follow-up by the Commission on the Status of Women

Resolution number	*Title*
2008/11	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

C. Resolutions calling for action by all relevant United Nations bodies/entities of the United Nations system

Resolution number	*Title*
2008/2	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Resolution number	*Title*
2008/15	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
2008/17	Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
2008/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council
2008/34	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2008/36	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
2008/37	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010